Fishery Leaflet
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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

April-June 1961

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service - Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

PERIODICAL
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

Cold-storage holdings of fishery products March 1, '61 = 174.6 mil. lbs., March 1, '60 = 180.4 mil. lbs., March 1, '59 = 153.8 mil. lbs. Flounder, halibut, salmon, shellfish (except shrimp) inventories higher on March 1, '61 than year earlier. Other major species were in lower supply.

Imports in Jan. '61 generally higher for most species compared with Jan. '60, but receipts of spiny lobsters, fresh-water fish, scallops, canned salmon, canned tuna, and frozen light meat tuna were lower. Imports expected to continue high this quarter.

Exports in Jan. '61 higher than Jan. '60 for canned mackerel, fish oil, frozen shrimp, and oysters. Total 1960 exports were higher than 1959 for frozen salmon, frozen and canned shrimp, and canned mackerel and anchovies.

Fish meal and scrap production during Jan. '61 = 2,723 tons compared with 2,640 tons in Jan. '60. Marine animal oil yields in Jan. '61 = 55.1 thousand gals., almost 13 percent higher than year earlier.

Wholesale price index for edible fishery products in February '61 up 9.2 percent from same period '60. Canned Maine sardine prices in Feb. '61 were lower than Feb. '60 by 25 cents per case, but there was a 14% rise in canned pink salmon prices and a slight increase in canned tuna prices.

Canned fish and shellfish pack '60 = 675 mil. lbs., about 50 mil. lbs., more than previous year. Larger packs of tuna, salmon, Maine sardines, and jack mackerel.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Industrial production in Feb. '61 at 102 percent of the 1957 average remained unchanged from Jan. '61. The index at 102 is an 8 percent decline from record peak in Jan. '60. Nonagricultural employment declined. Retail sales advanced.

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Salt-water Fish

FISH STICKS & PORTIONS --- Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Fish stick prod. '60 = 65 mil. lbs., 8% above '59. Fish portion prod. same period = 48.3 mil. lbs., up 30%. Holdings March 1, '61 = 4% below last year. Prices steady.
FLOUNDER & SOLE FILLETS-- Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Holdings March 1, '61 = 4.8 mil. lbs., 28% above '60. Landings in Mass. thru Feb. '61 = 7.4 mil. lbs., 38% above same period '60. However, production will be seasonally low until last part of quarter.
COD FILLETS---------- Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Holdings March 1, '61 = 5 mil. lbs., 28% above '60. Increased landings this quarter. Imports Jan. '61 about same as Jan. '60.
HADDOCK FILLETS---------- Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Imports Jan. '61 = 3 mil. lbs., about 80% higher than Jan. '60. Holdings March 1, '61 = 7.1 mil. lbs., 10% lower than year earlier. Landings will seasonally increase this quarter. Prices should remain steady.
OCEAN PERCH FILLETS------ Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good	Holdings March 1, '61 = 7 mil. lbs., 23% below March 1, '60. Landings thru Feb. '61 = 35% higher than same period '60. 2nd and 3rd quarters peak prod. period. Prices strengthened in Feb. and should remain steady.
HALIBUT---------- Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good	Holdings March 1, '61 = 8.5 mil. lbs., 24% below March 1, '60. Halibut season begins May 10 in all areas except 3B North which begins April 10 and 3B South which begins April 25. Prices will probably strengthen.
MACKEREL, CANNED--------- Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Moderate	Pacific and Jack Mackerel pack thru Feb. '61 = 63 thous. std. cases, 64% below same period '60. Heavy inventories from '60 pack expected to keep supplies adequate in 2nd quarter. Landings of mackerel light to moderate this quarter.
SALMON, CANNED---------- Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good	Pack '60 = 2.8 mil. cases, 14% larger than '59. Increase was in Alaska; Washington-Oregon pack 62% lower than year earlier. Imports Jan. '61 = 782 thous. lbs. compared with 5.3 mil. lbs. Jan. '60. Exports Jan. '61 - 502 thous. lbs., 24% lower than Jan. '60. Prices will remain high this quarter.
SARDINES, CALIFORNIA------ Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good	Landings '60 = 55 mil. lbs., 24% lower than '59. Pack '60 = 636 thous. std. cases about 18% below '59. Prices very firm and could increase with light supplies in second quarter.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Washington 25, D. C.

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Enclosed is a copy of the "new look" Commercial Fisheries Outlook. Charts and tables have been excluded from this four page condensed report of the trends and conditions in the fishing industry. This different method of presentation is an attempt to provide timely, easy to read information for our busy readers. In reducing the bulkiness of our old Outlook publication, we have retained pertinent material which will be most helpful in planning operations in the fishing industry. The Commercial Fisheries Outlook is used as a marketing aid, and represents our analysis of the supply, demand, market, and price situation of principal commercial fishery products. The enclosed leaflet forecasts trends and conditions, and covers data on production, cold storage holdings, imports, exports, and many other factors. Brief summaries regarding economic conditions, and information on competitive products are included. The most important species commercially will be carried each quarter, while other species will appear as seasonally warranted.

The terms used under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation. Market refers to the movement of supplies and the price situation. Supplies refer to available stocks i.e. receipts, imports, cold storage holdings. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity. Demand is a measure of the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies. Prices refer to those at wholesale or comparable level.

Wide use is made of correspondence and interviews with representative members of the commercial fishing industry in order to obtain opinions of the trade as to business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period covered by the report. Government and industry publications are also consulted and used.

SARDINES, MAINE----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Moderate

Pack '60 = 1.9 mil. cases, 13% above '59 pack. Season starts April 15, but quiet until late in 2nd quarter. Prices began to strengthen in late Feb. and should be steady this quarter.

TUNA, CANNED----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal
Demand - Good

Calif. pack Jan-Feb '61 = 1.46 mil. std. cases, little more than year earlier. Frozen imports Jan. '61 = 16.5 mil. lbs., Jan. '60 = 20.9 mil. lbs. Imports canned tuna and bonito Jan. '61 = 3.7 mil. lbs., Jan. '60 = 5.0 mil. lbs. Prices steady.

Shellfish

CRAB MEAT----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Prod. of hard crabs on Atlantic and Gulf Coasts will seasonally increase during 2nd quarter. Holdings March 1, '61 = 2.1 mil. lbs., 17% above year earlier. Prices expected to be steady.

LOBSTERS----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings low in second quarter. Imports from Canada Jan. '61 = 1.6 mil. lbs., 18% higher than Jan. '60. Heavy imports this quarter. Holdings spiny lobsters March 1, '61 = 6.5 mil. lbs., 55% higher than year earlier.

SCALLOPS, SEA----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Landings thru Feb. '61 = 2.2 mil. lbs., almost 8% above same period '60. Holdings March 1, '61 = 2.4 mil. lbs., 18% below last year. Imports Jan. '61 = 250 thous. lbs., 14% below Jan. '60. Prices steady.

SHRIMP----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Liberal
Demand - Good

Landings thru Feb. '61 = 8.8 mil. lbs., 37% above same period '60. Holdings March 1, '61 = 48.3 mil. lbs., 23% above March 1, '60. Imports Jan. '61 = 12.3 mil. lbs., 44% above year earlier. Pack canned shrimp for season thru Feb. '61 only about 1% below last year. Prices will remain steady.

Industrial Products

FISH OIL----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Moderate
Demand - Good

Production Jan. '61 = 55.1 thous. gals., 13% more than in Jan. '60. Total '60 prod. = 26.7 mil. gals., 1.7 mil. gals. above '59. Exports Jan. '61 = 13.4 mil. lbs.; Jan. '60 = 2.0 mil. lbs., increase 550%. Prices should level off and become steady this quarter.

FISH MEAL----------
Market - Steady
Supplies - Light-to-Moderate
Demand - Moderate

Production Jan. '61 = 2.7 thous. tons, 3% above Jan. '60. Heavy production begins 2nd quarter. Imports '60 = 131.6 thous. tons 1% below total '59. Peru and Canada chief suppliers. Prices becoming steady.

Iron and steel production increased but output of automotive parts, construction materials, and certain other durable materials continued decline. Decline of auto assemblies in Feb. '61 was 6 percent compared with 20 percent in Jan. '61, some additional decrease expected.

Construction - Value of new construction activity declined slightly further in Feb. '61. While private residential construction continued to decrease, most other types changed little.

Employment - Reductions in manufacturing, mining, construction, transportation, and trade. In manufacturing, lay offs were centered in automobiles and other durable goods lines. The unemployment late in Feb. '61 at 6.8 percent of civialin labor force was about same as in Dec. and Jan.

Commodity Prices - Wholesale price index declined slightly from early Feb. to early March reflecting decreases in prices in foods mainly meat and eggs. Prices of most canned commodities remained stable, while prices of steel scrap advanced.

Distribution - After three months of decline, retail sales increased slightly in Feb. '61. Sales of autos remained at reduced Jan. '61 rate. In Feb. as in Jan. dealers' stocks of autos changed little in contrast with usual seasonal increase.

THE FOOD SITUATION

Larger food supplies are expected in '61 than in '60 resulting in strong consumer demand. Prices rather steady.

Meats - Prospects are for more meat in '61 than last year because of gain in beef and veal production. Cattle meat prices will average close to those of 1960. Beef consumption in '61 expected to be 85 pounds per person. Almost as much pork this year as last with per capita consumption almost 65 pounds.

Poultry and Eggs - Poultry meat production will be well above that of '60 while supplies of eggs are expected to remain smaller than year earlier until mid-summer. Per capita consumption of eggs in '61 will be close to last year's rate of 330 eggs while consumption of both chicken and turkey will advance to new record highs.

Dairy Products - Dairy products will be more plentiful in '61 than in '60. Milk production is likely to increase more rapidly than in '60. Per capita consumption of dairy products (fluid milk equivalent) has trended downward during post war years.

Fats and Oils - Supplies of food fats and oils during remainder of 1960-61 marketing year will be less than year earlier record level. Retail prices of fats and oil products will likely average higher this spring and summer than last. Per capita consumption of food fats and oils in '61 will be about 46 pounds.

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